

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 04165 110124Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 INR-10 CIAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /047 W
-----063638 110212Z /20 S
O 110119Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8885
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 04165

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MX, GT
SUBJECT: MEXICO AND F-5'S

REF: MEXICO 2739

1. DURING MY MARCH 9 INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO, I MENTIONED FORMAL REQUEST FOR PURCHASE OF F-5'S IN NOTE FROM MEXICAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IN EARLY DECEMBER. I EXPLAINED THAT SALE WOULD CONFLICT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS SALES, ON WHICH HE WAS TRYING TO HOLD THE LINE, AND ASKED THE PRESIDENT ABOUT HIS PERSONAL DEGREE OF INTEREST IN OBTAINING THESE AIRCRAFT.

2. HE ANSWERED PROMPTLY AND WITHOUT HESITATION THAT HE HAD NO INTEREST AT ALL IN THE ACQUISITION OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. THERE WERE MANY THINGS MEXICO NEEDED MORE THAN SUCH PLANES. MEXICO'S ONLY DEFENSE CONCERNS WERE FOR INTERNAL SECURITY, AND FIGHTERS DID NOT SERVE THAT PURPOSE. HE ASKED RHETORICALLY, WHAT WOULD WE WANT FIGHTER PLANES FOR? TO DEFEND AGAINST THE U.S.? TO RESPOND TO AN ATTACK FROM GUATEMALA? IN UNLIKELY CASE OF GUATEMALAN ATTACK, MEXICO WOULD LOOK TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO ASSIST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 04165 110124Z

IT. (HE DID NOT DEFINE, BUT I ASSUME HE MEANT FORCES UNDER RIO TREATY PROVISIONS.) THE PRESIDENT REPEATED IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT FORMS HIS ABSENCE OF INTEREST IN F-5 PURCHASE.

3. SECRETARY ROEL HAD EARLIER ON MARCH 9 TOLD ME THAT IN HIS OPINION MEXICO HAD NO SERIOUS INTEREST IN F-5 PURCHASE, AND THAT AMBASSADOR MARGAIN SEEMED TO BE REACTING

TO A MILITARY INITIATIVE (WHICH, OF COURSE, MEXICAN AIR FORCE COMMANDER HAS DENIED MAKING). I TOLD ROEL I INTENDED TO QUERY THE PRESIDENT ON THIS QUESTION, AND HE SAID FINE. ON MORNING MARCH 10, ROEL TOLD ME THAT, ON F-5'S, HIS REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF OUR CONVERSATION COINCIDED EXACTLY WITH MINE. I SUGGESTED THAT ROEL HAVE AMBASSADOR MARGAIN WITHDRAW THE DECEMBER 9 NOTE SO THAT USG WILL NOT BE IN POSITION OF HAVING IT UNANSWERED ON OUR HANDS WHEN IT IS A DEAD ISSUE. HE ASSURED ME HE WOULD INSTRUCT MARGAIN TO THIS EFFECT.

4. THIS CASE, A CLASSIC ONE OF MIXED SIGNALS AND FAULTY COMMUNICATIONS, HAS NUMBER OF ELEMENTS THAT REMAIN PUZZLING, ON WHICH WE WILL BE DEVELOPING INFORMATION AND REPORTING FURTHER. LUCEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MEXICO04165
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780109-0032
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780379/aaaacoqb.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 64c718c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 MEXICO 2739
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3361210
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEXICO AND F-5'S
TAGS: MASS, MX, GT, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/64c718c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014